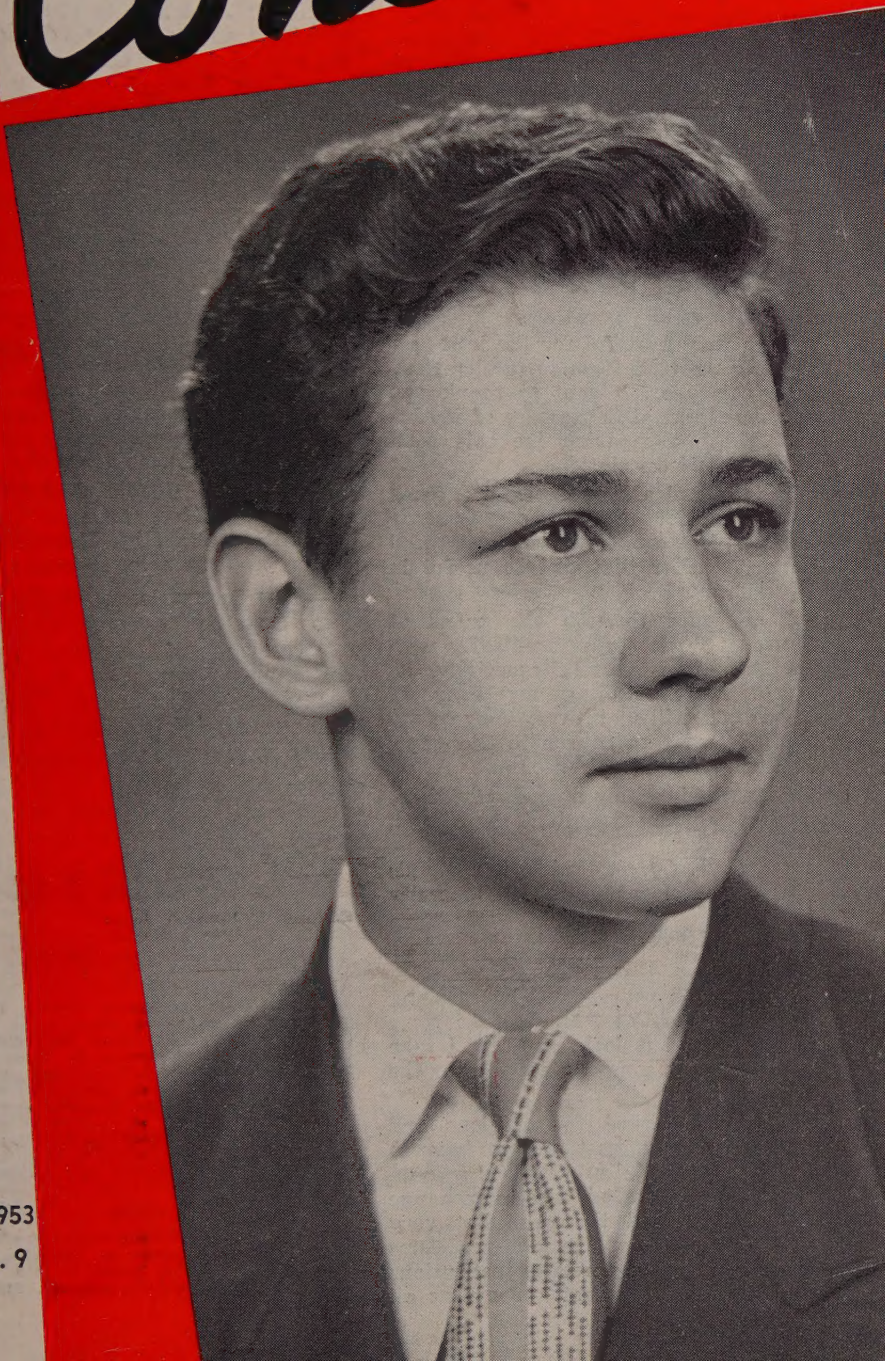
Concern



1953

No. 9

Cover Photo

We honor a CONCERN Representative and friend who no longer works with us. Last July Robert Mercer was killed in an automobile accident. In this issue CONCERN pays tribute to him.

Methodist youth in Bob's home conference are remembering him through a special project. Even after death, Bob Mercer will have a ministry among youth and students.

Read the story on Page 12.

Forum

THANKS FOR CONCERN

Sirs:

I am very grateful for the letter informing me that I am to receive CONCERN this year. I want to thank you and the National Conference of Methodist Youth for giving me this complimentary subscription.

It is indeed a privilege and a great experience for me to be a Crusade scholar. Your country has so many good things to offer that will be useful in my country.

I am sure through the pages of CONCERN I will gain familiarity with the American church, especially its youth. After reading my copy of CONCERN I will mail every copy to my MYF in my own church in Olongapo, Philippines, for their use.

CONCERN is surely a good way of becoming acquainted with American Methodism.

C. T. Garcia, Philippine Islands
now at Boston University

SUGGESTIONS, TOO

Sirs:

Thanks for your recent letter along with a copy of CONCERN. I read it very carefully, and it looks so nice. I take opportunity to congratulate you for the achievement.

Since you asked for opinions and suggestions, I suggest that we have to be very thoughtful and careful in publishing any news. It is nice to exchange news, views and thoughts, but very risky and dangerous to give criticisms about individual persons, institutions and countries. I do not approve at all giving any criticism regarding customs and rules. I mean the references made to customs like smoking, dancing, dating, etc. We all have other types of extremes in our respective countries of the Oriental world, which may not be quite welcomed by our friends in America. As some contributors have adopted the policy of giving the good side, why not encourage that better side — what we can learn and take with us to our lands. Avoid totally the dark or bad side.

Secondly, could we have some personal news? Why not some stories, brief essays, special trips—giving the brief and vivid picture of a place, its history and geography.

I completed B. D. at Asbury and am now earning M. A. in sociology at DePauw. DePauw has arranged for me to be pastor of two Methodist churches Bloomingdale and Linebarger Chapel. It is a thrilling experience, and I am very glad to express that I received a very warm welcome from the congregations. They are very kind, hospitable and cooperative.

Alfred G. Bhatt, Bombay, India
now in Greencastle, Ind.

—THE CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE, MOTIVE AND CONCERN GAVE COMPLIMENTARY SUBSCRIPTIONS TO METHODISM'S CRUSADE SCHOLARS FOR THIS YEAR, TO HELP THEM LEARN ABOUT THE CHURCH. BOARDS OF THE CHURCH ARE COOPERATING IN MANY OTHER WAYS TO MAKE THEM FEEL AT HOME.

Concern

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Member: Associated Church Press

Concern is published every other week by the National Conference of Methodist Youth, P. O. Box 871, Nashville 2, Tenn. Richard Thompson, president; Jeff Campbell, vice president; Jean Stevenson, recording secretary; Kenneth Thompson, Jr., financial secretary.

The editorial policy of Concern as set by the National Conference of Methodist Youth is the Social Creed of The Methodist Church, adopted by the General Conference and printed in The Discipline.

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NEWS

esident leads wire barrage

The most talked-about popularity ll of the month is not one taken by r. Gallup, Mr. Roper or any of the ofessional poll-takers.

It was an informal poll started by nator Joseph McCarthy in a speech the nation. He asked citizens to comnicate with the White House if they reed with him that the United States ould stop any aid to Allied countries nich persist in trading with Commust China.

Then others suggested that backers the President's stand should also gister their opinions. The President nd Secretary of State Dulles hold that estern trade with Red China is very nall and that to threaten cessation of d would amount to bullying friendly ations.

As CONCERN went to press, the latest White House announcement was that ne "point of view of the administraon is slightly ahead" in telegrams hile the viewpoint of Senator Mcarthy "is ahead" in letters opened. The eport was based on about 25,000 telerams and 25,000 letters. Early returns ad been more than two to one in favor f the Wisconsin senator. McCarthy aid that he is not engaged in any popularity contest" with the President.

President Eisenhower never made a ounter-appeal. One Washington paper ssumed, for purposes of illustration, hat 30,000 of the 50,000 who wrote or vired were supporters of McCarthy. With 160 million people in the U. S. ow, the 30,000 pro-McCarthy messages would represent about 18 thousandths f one percent of the population.

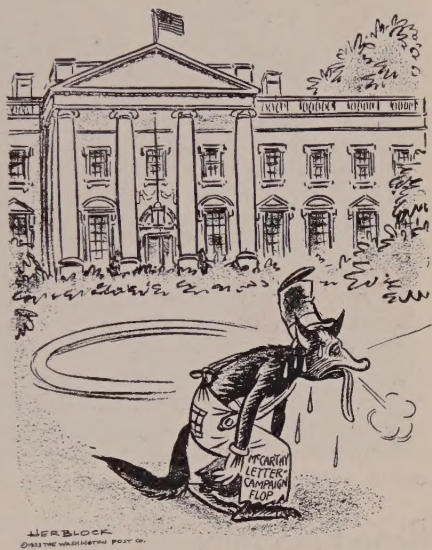
Presidential Press Secretary James Hagerty reported that unless the ratio f sentiment changed significantly he would have nothing more to say.

Supreme Court ends segregation debate

Debate on an explosive issue came o a quiet close before the nine jusices of the U. S. Supreme Court this month. The issue: whether segregation of white and Negro children in public schools is a violation of the U. S. constitution.

Now in the calm of their judicial chambers and in conferences among themselves, the nine justices must decide who is right: the states which have said over and over that segregation is entirely legal if Negroes have as good schools as whites; or lawyers for Negro parents who argue that it is unconstitutional under any circumstances and a holdover from the days of slavery.

'I Didn't Really Want To Blow Your House In, Anyhow'



The big decision may not come before next spring, when this term of court ends.

Compulsory segregation in public schools is the law in 17 states and the District of Columbia, and three other states permit segregation. In the south, some states are talking about substituting private schools for public schools if the Supreme Court declares segregation unconstitutional. Mississippi and Georgia have taken preliminary steps to make such a substitution legal.

Several states argued that the Supreme Court has no authority to end segregation and that states should be left free to handle the issue in their own way through their own legislatures.

Delaware's attorney general, H. Albert Young, told the court, "The problem is obviously a legislative one and not a judicial one."

Thurgood Marshall, New York attorney and counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) told the justices: "The real question in these cases is if the states today do or do not have the power to use race and race alone as the basis for segregation. Our theory is that the states have been deprived of that power. On that, we submit these cases."

Technically, the court will give a decision only on five specific cases involving segregation in particular school districts in South Carolina, Virginia, the District of Columbia, Kansas and Delaware. However, the implications of the court's ruling will extend far beyond the question of what to do in these specific cases. A ruling against segregation in public schools will affect also the laws requiring segregation in transportation, recreation, housing and other public accommodations.

Rene Pino joins youth department

Next week Rene Pino joins the staff of the Youth Department of the Methodist General Board of Education and will have charge of camping and the program for intermediates. His appointment was announced December 11 by Dr. J. Q. Schisler, executive secretary of the Board's Division of the Local Church.

Pino is now conference director of youth work in the Texas Conference. He is a layman.

A native of Cuba, Pino came to the U. S. in 1937 and was granted American citizenship in 1942. He has degrees from Peabody College in Nashville and Teachers College, Columbia University, New York. For three years he was professor at Marshall College, Huntington, W. Va., and for two years was director of Christian education at First church, Texas City, Texas.

Youth Department Director Harold Ewing told CONCERN: "We have received outstanding recommendations on Mr. Pino, and the staff members are most enthusiastic about his qualifications and the fact that he is joining us as a colleague in this work."

Southeastern youth plan '54 convocation

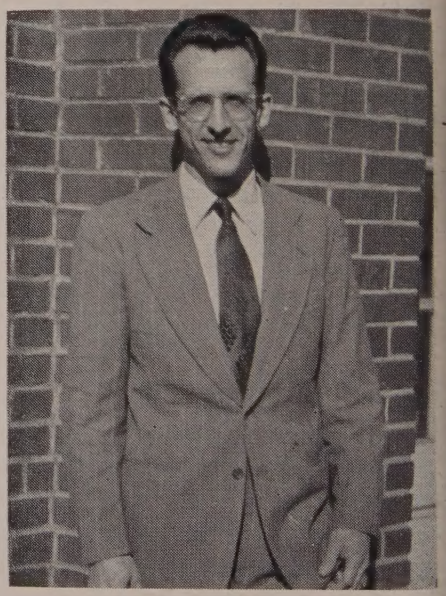
The traditional youth leaders work shop held at Lake Junaluska, N. C. for MYF leaders in the southeast will take on a new look this year. Instead of a workshop, southeastern leaders are planning a jurisdictional convocation of 800 youth and 200 adult counselors.

Plans were announced early this month by the planning committee after a weekend Nashville meeting.

Convocation theme is "Christ Above All," and program will be geared to the Youth Emphasis. Chief objectives of the convocation will be to inspire greater concern for church, family, community and world relationships through Christian education and evangelism, according to Youth Department Director Harold Ewing.

Dates: July 21-26, 1954. The Lake Junaluska Assembly is making all its facilities available for the meeting.

Convocation dean is Rev. W. L. Joyner, St. Petersburg, Fla. Other leaders are George Blackburn, Holston conference director of youth work, dean of men; Miss Nina Reeves, North Alabama Conference director of youth work, dean of women; and Rev. Warren



Rene F. Pino
. . . new staff member . . .

Willis, Florida Conference director of youth work, business manager. Bill Traker of Jefferson City, Tenn., is youth chairman of the planning committee. The committee includes one youth from each episcopal area in the jurisdiction, as well as key adult leaders.

Methodist pastor named to UCYM staff

Oslo, Cleveland, Purdue, Grand Rapids, Toronto, Whitby, Geneva, Lausanne, Brussells—places where recent history of the Christian youth movement has been written, all are part of the experience of a young Methodist just appointed to a new position of service and responsibility.

The General Board of the National Council of Churches has confirmed the appointment of John S. Wood as director of social education for the United Christian Youth Movement and the Youth Department of the National Council.

Wood is now pastor of the Methodist church in Springfield Gardens, Queens, N. Y., and for the past few years has been district director of youth work.

Wood

His strictly Methodist experience includes the local MYF presidency, and offices on subdistrict, district and conference levels. Interdenominationally he has been president of the Metropolitan (New York City) Christian Youth Council, regional chairman (Eastern) for the UCYM, and recently has been director of the UCYM's Lake Winnipesaukee training conference.

His list of other jobs is long: delegate to Oslo World Conference of Christian Youth, member of World Council of Churches Youth Department committee, chairman of American delegation to the World Assembly of Youth. In this country he has been chairman of the (national) Young Adult Council and youth chairman of U.N. Day.

He and his family move to Chicago to assume work on January 1.

Service booklet off press next week

The 1954 edition of a well-known and much used booklet, *Methodist Service Projects,* comes off the press next week. Biggest change for 1954: the booklet is no longer free.

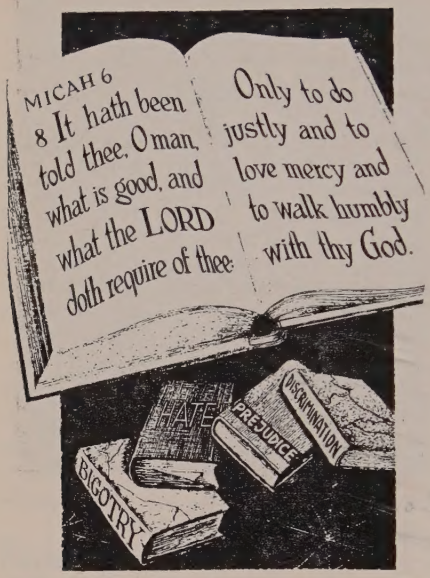
Single copies cost ten cents, or $8 per 100 copies, cash with order from the Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations, P. O. Box 871, Nashville 2, Tenn.

The booklet describes a wide variety of vocational opportunities in various institutions and programs of The Methodist Church. Personnel needs of the church in the fields of the ministry, missions, Christian education and nursing are estimated at 5,150 persons annually. Some 73 different categories of work are outlined in a dozen general program areas.

In addition to job descriptions, the manual contains a statement on a Christian philosophy of vocation, a description of volunteer and short-term service, information on selective service and church vocations, information on Methodist loan and scholarship funds, a bibliography of resource material, and a listing of personnel officers of the church.

The booklet is a great aid to youth and adults who work with youth. The Interboard Committee produces it annually.

Jesus Speaks


MICAH 6
8 It hath been told thee, O man, what is good, and what the LORD doth require of thee:
Only to do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God.
HATE
PREJUDICE
DISCRIMINATION
BIGOTRY

—Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith

—IF JESUS WERE TO APPEAR IN THE FLESH DURING THIS SEASON WHEN WE CELEBRATE HIS BIRTH, WHAT WOULD HE SAY TO US? THIS IS WHAT ONE PERSON THINKS HE MIGHT HAVE TO SAY . . . WHAT DO YOU THINK?

And, you say, it is to honor me that all these banners, and lights, and notices of sale, and tinkling of bells are everywhere in your streets? To honor me that your minds are anxious and your bodies weary as you rush about your town's shops? To honor me that men and women run from market to market, seeking where things are sold at lowest cost, and lavishing upon each other gifts the money for which had better be used to feed your hungry and care for the homeless of your generation?

Do you not yet know that the only honor I seek on this or any other day is that you do the will and works of the Father as I showed them to you? God sent a Message to you through me. God tried to tell you how to live one with the other—in peace, and love.

It is true that disciples in many lands and in many ages have cast out much of sin from their lives. And it is true

VIEWS

that in compassion often shown to a child, or in help given the hungry and naked, God is well pleased. But, for the most part, you have taken the Message and bound it away in a Book and in a Church. You have not taken it into your hearts; you have not made it the rule and guide of your conduct toward your God and your neighbor.

You have not loved the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and soul, and mind, and strength. You have loved and trusted your own might and your own possessions. You have worshipped and bowed down before the gods of war, and of gold, and of the gathering to yourselves of a multitude of the things of this world—idols of wood and silver, and iron, and rich cloth worked with the great cunning of your minds.

O foolish ones, your children and your friends require of you, as God also requires of you, not these perishable tokens such as men gave to a Babe, but those true gifts of hearts and spirits that love and serve God and all God's children: "to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with thy God."

In another day I would have called you hypocrites. But now I only call you ignorant, for you have had to listen to false prophets and to teachers who have not themselves been rightly taught. For while men read today as never before they do not know what they read nor why they read, and many read themselves into ignorance and delusion.

O generation that hears but heeds not, that speaks truth from the lips but falsehood from the heart, God himself weeps over you. You may raise your "hosannas" and "Glorias" in song today; you may laugh and shout joy from the very depth of your sorrows and anxieties: but God still searches only your hearts.

If you would honor me today, or rather honor Him who sent me, remember that the Message of generations ago still holds God's truth. Write it upon your hearts, that men may read it in your deeds, and may worship and follow your God and Father.

—BY W. W. REID

Star bright

ho of us hasn't felt like praying the little girl, "Forgive us our stmases as we forgive those who stmas against us." For another , we resolve. About us other forces resolving too—like the "keep Christ ristmas" slogan projected towards another year by civic, business and other groups. Notice anything strange about the parades in many places this year — the number and beauty of religious floats, sometimes even whole parades with religious motif? Is this indicative of something?

ss Bowman

umanity's pretty scared. A global of scare. Pervasive. Persuasive, that we put our trust in this or panacea that may be ersatz. Comtators were asking after Eisener's speech, "Is this the turning t? History's crossroads between and peace?" We're almost afraid une in for the next news. 1954's ential may be more dire than the bined imaginations of all humanity picture . . . or—

rom unexpected places and from prising voices come questions: quests phrased in new ways beyond old ne's. Is there "good news"? Churchn have been taking it all so for nted. How answer with fresh news and vigor? Discuss in sparkling language at the question-points?

ecretly, too, we take stock in the k of the moon. Scared ourselves, if th be known. Want joy, tang of ng—instead of being a "hubbub of erogeneous possibiliites;" want life undant" (translated in the vernacu- "full of beans," with overflow of rgy making for gaiety). Are we one those psychologists that Janet calls "fatiguables"? Will 1954's experiences be as traps for our spirits or doorways adventure-ward?

Many act more like problems than problem-solvers. Fire, air, sea, ether have unfolded their laws to us. Have our spirits unfolded apace? We bring carols from around the world to our ears. Can we catch the song in our hearts? We travel twice the speed of sound. Can we run away from our own dark shadows? We have machinery almost mastering us? "Failing to actualize the best that is in us" is neurosis.

Here we are: world urgency; our own special personal urgencies and fears. Another urgency, too: the mighty Youth Emphasis to be matched each moment of '54 with spiritual momentum. Seems too much for us. Rightly. Too much for us. Admitting need for help from beyond supples knees so that they can bend.

All of a sudden a cue from the Christmas story comes real to us, and shines into the future way. Certain shepherds and wise men saw a star — for the simple reason that they at that time were looking up! How many others may have missed the heavenly vision? And how easily we might miss it from day to day, hour to hour in our year. Engrossed in things—books, dates, meetings, clothes —we may get like the epitaph: "Born a man, died a grocer."

Concern Feature

What will it be when we look back on '54—"Begun the year bravely as a vital young person specially endowed of God . . . ended the year a jumble of rushed-through days and dazed-through rushing." Of one man it was said, "He would have done something if he hadn't had so much to do." Shepherds and wise men did not just drop by the manger, remaining standing or with motors running; they ceased all other endeavors. Knelt. And looked up at the Babe.

Truth is, we cannot figure out our

path ahead for our personal lives or for the world by ourselves ("like a ruminating rhinoceros," Santayana put it). Nor can our eyes see Stars when clouded with self-interest — "give me peace of mind." A young ruler, spiritually immature, asked the wrong (self-interest, even for eternal life) question; went away sorrowful. Overstreet speaks of those who "cry to their God of magic as children might tug at a parental sleeve and cry for lollipops." Rather, "surgical readiness to cut away soft and messy portions of the ego" clears eyes, to catch the light, sharp and strong. "Over my head, there's a glory in the air." "I will lift up my eyes . . . help cometh." God is. Mighty. "If there is no room in a fitting place, he uses another, even a manger," remarks Dr. Luccock. "God never gets to the end of his rope." The Star shines, though inns be full.

Second cue: having seen, they said. "Let us go even now . . . "Launch forth all out in the Light's direction. The Merchant in "Family Portrait," on hearing about the love-way for the first time asks simply, "Has anybody tried it?" People might be equally shocked to see religion doubted or practiced. Schweitzer's sincere witness of loving hands shakes a planet. The peace prize is honored by his name, not vice versa.

—BY CLARICE BOWMAN

Thinking out the news

He can wait, can't He?

Christmas Eve: and far from the sounds of revelry a lonely figure walks the hillside.

Does He know the season? Yes, He knows.

Does He object, then, to innocent merriment, to the laughter of children, to the tinkle of toys and the glow of multicolored lights? No, He doesn't "object."

Would He condemn us for eating, for singing, for exchanging presents? For renewing old friendships by mail or in the flesh? No, hardly that . . .

Well, what is the trouble then?

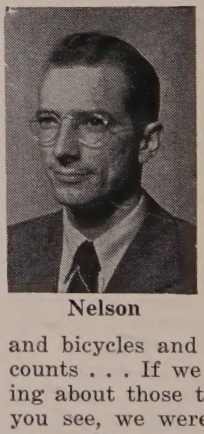
Of course, it is true that a lot of us overdo it, I suppose: cocktail parties instead of the manger, cosmetics and sports jackets instead of prayers . . . But don't forget, we go to church, too. At least, we do around Christmas.

Concern Feature

Could that be it? You think He might see a sort of "overemphasis?" Or maybe "underemphasis?" . . . He'd be right, of course; our Christmas cards really ought to say something besides "Merry Christmas," or "Season's Greetings." They ought to talk about . . . well, more important things.

I tell you what: we haven't observed Christmas in our home in some years— you know, the "old" way. A little less cranberry and a little more Bible. If we sort of dropped Him a hint, do you think He'd come on down? . . .

But what could we say to Him? We're so, so—well we've kind of gotten off the track, about Christmas, you know. No harm meant, but He's so serious about these thing, that . . .



Nelson

Well, next year then. We're not quite ready for such a quick change-over this year. Next year we'll start early, teach our kids it isn't Santa Claus and bicycles and turkey dressing that counts . . . If we can just start thinking about those things a little earlier, you see, we were just so rushed this year, with so many parties and all.

Still, up there, is He? Well . . .He'll still be there next year, won't He? Sort of waiting?

I guess so: after all, he's been waiting pretty long, already . . . about two thousand years.

Yes, He can wait some more.

—BY CLAUD NELSON, JR.

Peace on earth

egardless of political affiliation, iions of Americans were thrilled and id when the president of the United es stood before the General As- bly of the United Nations this th. It was sobering to hear him tell he terrifying power of atomic fis- . He declared that the power in atomic stockpile was greater than all of the bombs carried by all of the planes and shot from all of the cannons by all of nations in all of the theaters of rld War II! This is a destructive ential beyond the comprehension of n.

Concern feature

This is a power which is shaping the ·ld in which you live—shaping it for ce and abundant living, or for sus- ion, hatred, waste and ultimate an- iiliation.

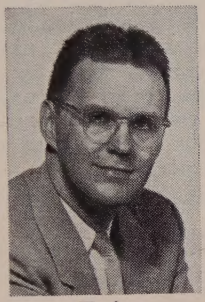
t is significant that in this Christ- s season the president of the United tes should call upon all nations, in name of peace, to create a pool fissionable material in the interest the constructive use of this colossal ver. This is one of the brightest rays hope which we have seen in the dern quest for peace. The President lared that the United States did not nt to be on the side of the "des- yers" but on the "side of history."

a world which is accustomed to kering in high places and pronounce- nts of futility, the President's words ld a new promise of efforts toward ative peace. This speech received longest ovation recorded before the neral Assembly and critics from ny nations are proclaiming it as one the outstanding speeches of the dern world.

Throughout the world as people of ery land prepare to celebrate the th of the Christ Child, there is cer- in to be a deeper meaning to the gels' song . . . "On earth peace nong men of good will . . ."

What can we do as Christian youth to work for creative peace?

We can pray. We can pray that God's will be manifested through us. We can pray that others will find the meaning of God's will, perhaps through our lives. We can pray for our enemies. We can pray for a creative peace.



Ewing

We can work for good will. Any sincere effort to work for peace begins as we seek to establish peace; to make good will a reality of home. We can begin in our school, church and community by seeking to establish understanding and good will among all of the people.

In the next few weeks many states will face a practical decision about basic good will as the Supreme Court of the United States deliberates on the legality of segregated public education. For many the Christmas message will have new meaning as Christians seek to establish good will in face of such situations. But every community has its own problem in good will, understanding and friendliness . . . what is yours and what are you doing about it? Some communities are split wide open on the matter of labor unions, religious groups, migrant labor, or social and political ideologies. At Christmas we are reminded of our continual obligation as Christians to make the Christmas miracle of peace and good will a rule of daily living, and not an exception which is as unusual as the Christmas tinsel.

We can make our viewpoint known. Frequently the forces that divide and separate the community and destroy their pressure to bear upon those who determine public policy. In a commun-

ity, state and nation youth of good will should be alert to let leaders and those who are the elected representatives know how they feel about important issues. If those who believe in creative good will remain silent, they will be taking side with those who devise and spread ill will.

This is the most delightful and meaningful season of the Christian year. Carols, parties, decorations, pageants, greetings and gifts all combine to make it a happy and festive occasion for each one. Let us make it a time when we join in prayer that the Christ Child may be born again in our hearts and in the hearts of all the world. Let us make it a time when we lay plans for creatively working for peace. Let us make it a time when we pray that we may be used of God in creating lasting good will and peace!

—BY HAROLD W. EWING

Books of Concern

The Sun and the Umbrella

One of the most popular speakers in American church life today, Nels F. S. Ferre, has written a modern parable that will entertain, enlighten and deeply concern committed churchmen.

The parable concerns people who called themselves Sun-worshippers. They lived under a large umbrella, and a young prophet tried to persuade them that the Light was to be found outside the umbrella. Some of them put the prophet to death for his boldness and scorn of the past. But some remembered his teachings and put up a second umbrella under the large one and inscribed his sayings in it. Then more umbrellas were built and various groups gathered under them. But one of the persons discovered for himself that it was possible to live unshaded in the Light of the Sun. And there was a great exodus from all umbrellas into the Light.

The Sun and the Umbrella is good reading, mainly for the stimulation it will give a thoughtful person.

Nels Ferre's longer theological works have been widely received, but this book will have more appeal for the common reader. Copies are $2 each, published by Harper and Brothers.

The Family Fun Book

Helen and Larry Eisenberg are wel known to CONCERN readers and to rec reation experts across the country. Th Eisenbergs have just produced a nev help for recreation leaders, *The Famil Fun Book*, published November 30 b Association Press.

This volume is based largely on th *Family Pleasure Chest*, an earlie Eisenberg book. Now the format i sharper and the book is easier to use For its size, this book has an amazin quantity of fun ideas, since each gam or activity is very briefly describe Happily, something is left to the rea er's skill and imagination, and yet a the essentials are there for him.

Here is family fun, very valuable i days when families need to learn t play together. *The Family Fun Boo* may be purchased for $2.95 a copy fro any Methodist Publishing House.

Careers for You

Long-needed is a new book th speaks directly to youth about choo ing a vocation by Christian standard Published this fall is a guide to yout *Careers for You*, by Erma Paul Fe rari. The book contains practical a recent information on kinds of jol how to choose one, how to find out mo about it, how to prepare for it, ho to get the job and how to keep it.

Mrs. Ferrari says that young peo should choose jobs through a sense Christian vocation—through the beli that honest, useful work is sacred.

The book is written in the langua of youth and will be helpful in a re way to many who are perplexed abo their life work. Order copies at each. Publisher is Abingdon-Cokesbu Press.

Friends of CONCERN

The friends who write Christmas send greetings but fe subscriptions. We give a speci thanks to these faithful few wh send in five or more subscription

John Causbie, Ore. .....
Ed Harrison, Fla. .....
George Thomas, Wisc. .....
Judy Baker, Tex. .....
Vineta Wiley, Mo. .....

th week plans
de radio show

annual observance of youth week for January 31-February 7, and and community services across ountry will emphasize the im- tce of youth.

ne for the week: So send I you. January 31 local churches may their youth, and suggested for ary 7 is an interdenominational unity worship service. The 1954 is designed to help youth dis- their responsibilities as world ian citizens and to show how can strengthen and enrich their ties toward building world broth- d in their own communities. Sug- d projects for the week include house to the world, a brother- banquet, and raiment round up.

ecial this year is a nationwide week radio program—"Assign- the World," which will be car- by 252 stations in 43 states and aii as part of the "Let There Be t" radio series. Youth are urged ntact their local stations about the dcast, to see that it will be carried ossible. Youth can promote the dcast in their churches and com- ities.

veral hundred extra recordings of show have been prepared so that stian youth councils and MYF ps can use it for special programs ne area of Christian outreach. Rec- lasts 15 minutes, is 33⅓ l-p, costs Order from Broadcasting and Film mission, National Broadcasting and n Commission, National Council of rches, 220 Fifth Ave., New York 1, Y.

full set of materials is available help plan youth week observances. complete packet is 50 cents, con- ing the following, which may be ered separately: youth week manual cents), radio play to be produced lly (20 cents), denominational wor- p service ($2 50 per 100), community ship service (10 cents), youth week ter (15 cents), youth week promo- nal flier ($2 per 100). Add 10 cents ndling charge for orders under $2. der from United Christian Youth vement, 79 East Adams St., Chicago Ill.

CUES

CARE sponsors new project

While the Christmas spirit reigns, many Americans will seek ways of sharing their material blessings.

CARE has announced a special food and gift package for relief distribution in 16 countries of Europe and Latin America. For only $1 people can send abroad almost eleven pounds of beef, milk, sugar, shortening, prunes, beans and rice. The foods were given free to CARE by the U. S. Foreign Operations Administration. The $1 is needed to cover CARE's cost of shipping and delivering the package.

Send dollars to Operation Reindeer, CARE, 660 First Ave., New York 16.

It takes all kinds - -

SCARED SCHOLAR retreats to the books to avoid people. Won't meet or mix. Knows all about the Unified Field Theory, but can't make his way around the local post office! If he ever had a date, he'd probably quote Einstein, with gestures.

Memorials planned for MYF leader

Robert Mercer was a high school senior with definite plans for the future. He decided to enter the ministry of The Methodist Church, made his statement of intention and dedication before the quarterly conference of his local church, was granted his local preacher's license and had planned to enroll in Albion College after graduating from high school in January, 1954.

But all plans came to an abrupt end when Bob Mercer was fatally injured in an automobile accident near Havre, Montana last July 28 while returning home from a vacation in the west. However, Bob had already left the mark of a young Christian.

Bob began church life in the nursery of Metropolitan church in Detroit, Mich. He went through the departments of the children's division, joined the church on April 1, 1945, and became active in the evening program when he was old enough to attend the Junior High Methodist Youth Fellowship. Then he gave his talents through various offices of the MYF.

Bob also held offices in both the Detroit District and Detroit Conference MYF and was active with the Detroit Council of Churches in its Christian Youth Council.

Bob was an effective CONCERN salesman. Following the automobile accident, he was taken to a Catholic hospital, unconscious. It was his CONCERN press card in his wallet which identified him as a Methodist, and attendants had a Methodist minister at his bedside wit in fifteen minutes.

Bob was conscientious about church life and church work but fou time for other things, too. He was senior at Redford High School, D troit, and played in the band and c cestra. He received the God and Cou try award of Scouting, for leadersh and service in the church, and t Eagle Scout award, the highest Scouting.

Bob gave his time and talents serve. He had deep convictions and inspiring faith. He and his work w be missed in his own church and in t wider areas where he served, but service has not ceased.

At the time of Bob's death his p ents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel B. Merc requested that gifts be placed in a me orial instead of flowers. They did dream that the fund would grow be $1500. The Robert Mercer Mem ial Fund will provide loans for stude planning for full time church vocatio and will be administered by Alb College, Albion, Mich.

Bob had a dream while he was troit District Community Service cha man, that the district MYF would bu a cabin at the Lake Huron Metho Camp near Port Huron, Mich. He st ed to raise money but was not able see the goal completed. Now the troit Conference MYF Council ha project to raise $4500 through pled from individuals and local MYF gro for the Bob Mercer Memorial Ca

Robert Mercer receives the God and Country award of Scouting at services in Metropolitan Methodist Church, June, 1952. Looking on are his parents and Dr. C. A. McPheeters, pastor, who made the presentation.

d has been broken and the cabin ected to be ready for use next

did not have the privilege of a long life, but he lived his few well.

witness mission zssful in Missouri

e Mt. Sequoyah leadership school ugust, St. Louis Conference peo- ave been talking about Christian ss missions. To get the idea across nrches in the conference, leaders d to have a conference-wide pilot t.

last week-end in November, 150 and adults came to Sikeston, Mo., orked with ten churches in a suc- l mission. Host district superin- nt John L. Taylor was mission or, and Leroy Walker of the ville Board of Evangelism staff main speaker.

nificant is the fact that the mis- was first dreamed by youth in nference, was projected and car- hrough by the youth themselves. aim was throughout to win youth rist. The pilot mission was fol- by a subdistrict mission in Jef- n City area, and now many more lanned for the conference. The ment is really snowballing, says rence youth director Barbara w.

e mission was climaxed by a con- tion service in which participants ed themselves to do all they could share the good news of Christ others."

Self-denial folder helps Youth Fund

From the New England Conference comes report of a new concern for the Methodist Youth Fund.

Goal for giving in the conference has never been more than $2,000, and that goal has never been reached. So the conference MYF council decided to take action.

The council decided to give every youth in the conference an Advent self-denial folder to be filled between Thanksgiving and Christmas, hoping to get $2,000 from 2,000 youth. According to conference director Richard Harding, enthusiasm is growing and they are confident of reaching their goal. By 1954 they hope to express their concern with as much as $4500, which is a big goal but not impossible.

District MYF has colorful parade

A new way to reach people is developing across the country, as more and more parades have floats with religious themes. From the Norwich District in the New England Southern Conference comes word on a spectacular project carried out by the MYF. On Hallowe'en afternoon 18 local MYFs put decorated floats in a parade at Willimantic, Con., on the theme "Christ Can Change the World—with Youth."

The entire parade was televised.

The winning float from Hazardville had a large Handbook of the MYF

ter a busy day at llmo, Mo., church, leaders meet the pastor to talk results of the St. Conference Chris- Witness Mission. reports are very

at the front of the truck with the five program areas written in several languages, portraying the world-wide fellowship of Christian youth. Youth were kneeling in prayer around an altar, in front of a world globe.

One float on Christian vocations showed youth serving Christ through various occupations, and another listed holy habits of the spiritual life. One float theme, "With Christ we play, we work, and we worship" was portrayed on an 18-foot trailer with such MYF activities as church attendance, visitation, packing clothes for relief, outings, games, and family devotions. On another, a man at a plow pictured the peace witness of the church—"They shall beat their swords into plow-shares and shall not learn war anymore.

A youth rally opened the spiritual life mission in the area, and Howard Ellis of the General Board of Evangelism was rally speaker. At an outdoor meeting, speakers included the local mayor and first selectman.

Methodist girl wins 4-H award

A Methodist girl—Ann Wade of Ochlochnee, Ga., was one of two top winners of national 4-H achievement awards at the 4-H congress held in Chicago early this month.

She and Kenyon Giese of Logansville, Wisc., each received a chest of sterling silver flatware in the name of President Eisenhower and a $300 scholarship awarded by the Ford motor company.

Ann is a junior college student in

MYF Roundup

Americus, Ga., and has been an ac MYFer for several years.

◆ Two ways for Methodist youth shoulder their Christian responsibili are the Methodist Youth Fund church-related vocations, decided yo at the Southren District of the Grande Conference. Thirty youth counselors held a week-end mid-wi institute December 4-6 at Valley stitute (a Methodist Youth Fund ject) at Pharr, Texas. The group s half its time studying local MYF ganization and the other half lear about the five program areas. D Alverez of Corpus Christi is dis president.

◆ Senior MYF in McMinnville, started its year with a two-day treat in the moutnains, then got u way with a booming program. family night supper in the churc MYF sold homemade candy and profit to paint their meeting "One Sunday a month they have ices to receive new members int MYF, and worship services have planned for both morning and ev meetings through the complete

◆ A panel discussion on the c program for youth was featured Washington West District annual ference held in Gaithersburg, Md. vember 30. Four MYFers tackled questions as, "Do you honestly fe church is doing the job it is sup to do?" They pointed up Metho youth emphasis, and said the b need is for more adult leaders.

When awards of honor were presented at the annual dinner of Goodwill Industries in St. Louis, district MYF president John Gillham, second from left, received an award on behalf of 500 MYFers of 40 St. Louis churches, who collected 3 289 bags of clothing for the organization's rehabilitation program.

M leaders d for Kansas

sooner will Christmas wrappings eaned up than students and coun- of the Methodist Student Move- will be packing bags and head- out for Lawrence, Kans., and the quadrennial National Methodist nt Conference.

nen registration deadline hit on mber 15, some 2100 delegates were tered for the conference, and more still trying to squeeze in under uota. With special cooperation and ncial help from the Methodist d of Missions, 200 students from r lands are registered for the con- nce.

hrist Transforming Culture" will he program theme as students seek me to grips with problems and is- of Christian faith and action.

mong platform speakers are Ralph man, pastor of Christ church, New k; Nels F. S. Ferre of Vanderbilt versity; Albert Outler of Southern odist University; Glenn Olds, versity of Denver; Harold Ehren- ger, Boston University; John O. ss, executive secretary of the Board Education's Division of Educational itutions; Bishop Newell Booth of abethville, Africa; and Philippe ry, Geneva, Switzerland, general etary of the World's Student Chris- Federation. Daily Bible studies be guided by Charles S. Laymon, or of Methodist adult publications. tchnight communion service will be by Bishop Matthew W. Clair of Louis.

etween platform hours students will e opportunity to share experiences to speak their minds in study ups, forums and campus-style bull- sions.

onference opens with the evening gram on December 28 and closes at n on January 2.

Brightest note in planning: with ut 90 per cent of the conference registered. few lines will be neces- y on opening day. Darkest cloud: at Kansas weather will do that k. Not even Lloyd's of London would ure the conference against bad ather. Regardless of weather, those o land in Lawrence Monday have a at week to enjoy.

MSM in action

Sunday is recognition day

December 27 is the annual observance of Student Recognition Day in The Methodist Church, a time for local congregations to show interest in their students and an opportunity for students to interpret to others something of the Methodist Student Movement and the religious life and program of their colleges.

A special service for the day has been prepared by Joan Norman of Garrett Biblical Institute. It is titled "The Open Door." About 35,000 copies have been distributed throughout the church.

Individual copies of the service are still available from the Department of College and University Religious Life, P. O. Box 871, Nashville.

Georgia MSM to meet at Clark

Highlight of the annual Georgia MSM fall conference was a vote to accept the invitation of Clark College, Negro school in Atlanta, to entertain the 1954 session.

This year some 233 delegates came from 21 colleges to First church in Athens, Ga., November 13-15. North Carolina philosophy professor William H. Poteat was guest speaker. Theme of the conference was "Convictions Do Compel."

Jack Wilcox of Georgia Tech was elected president, Miss DeCora Adams to be dean of the conference. Sam Laird of Emory is state MSM director.

Tip for Lawrence

A last-minute announcement from the student staff brings good news to ministers who plan to ride trains to the Lawrence conference. A minister who holds a clergy certificate from either of the three railroad associations may use one coupon to buy a round-trip ticket to Lawrence and return. Lawrence is on agents' list for inter-territorial travel.

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